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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/037,411 | 10/24/2001 | Patrick M. Cox | 41698.1034 | 7733 |

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EXAMINER

HOOSAIN, ALLAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/037,411

Applicant(s)

COX ET AL.

Examiner

Allan Hoosain

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 57-77 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 57-77 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 57-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by **Hou et al.** (US 5,325,421).

As to Claims 57-59,61, with respect to Figures 3-5, **Hou** teaches a method for managing a call from a caller to an information assistance service, the method comprising:

receiving information concerning a first calling area associated with the call (Col. 2, lines 38-40);

eliciting from the caller an information assistance request (Col. 11, lines 14-24);

searching a database for results responsive to the information assistance request, the results including a destination telephone number (Col. 11, lines 40-46);

determining whether a connection from the first calling area to a second calling area indicated by the destination telephone number incurs charges (Col. 9, lines 22-35);

determining whether the caller is authorized to have the connection made through the information assistance service based on a status of an account associated with the caller (Col. 11, lines 25-30); and

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making the connection when it is determined that the caller is authorized to have the connection made which incurs charges (Col. 9, lines 22-40).

As to Claims 60,66, **Hou** teaches the method of claim 57 wherein the information assistance service is provided by an operator (Col. 9, lines 18-55).

As to Claims 62-63,67, with respect to Figures 3-5, **Hou** teaches a method for managing a call from a caller to an information assistance service, the method comprising:

receiving information concerning a calling telephone number associated with the call (Col. 2, lines 38-40);

eliciting from the caller an information assistance request (Col. 11, lines 14-24);

in response to the information assistance request searching a database for a destination telephone number (Col. 11, lines 40-46);

determining whether a connection between a calling station from which the call originates to a called station associated with the destination telephone number incurs charges based on a comparison of at least a portion of the calling telephone number with at least a portion of the destination telephone number (Col. 9, lines 30-34 and Col. 3, lines 24-57);

determining whether the caller is authorized to have the connection made through the information assistance service based on a status of an account associated with the caller (Col. 11, lines 25-30); and

connecting a calling station to the called station when it is determined that the caller is authorized to have the connection made which incurs charges (Col. 9, lines 22-38).

As to Claims 64-65, **Hou** teaches the method of claim 62 wherein the portion of the calling telephone number indicates a first calling area, 225, and the portion of the destination telephone number indicates a second calling area, 250, different from the first calling area (Figure 1 and Col. 2, lines 31-35).

As to Claims 68-77, with respect to Figures 3-5, **Hou** teaches a method of providing an information assistance service to a customer, comprising:

- receiving signals in setting up a call from the customer through an inbound channel (Col. 2, lines 38-40);

- based on the received signals, identifying a calling telephone number associated with a calling station from which the customer calls (Col. 2, lines 38-40);

- eliciting an information assistance request from the customer (Col. 11, lines 14-24);

- in response to the information assistance request, searching a database for a destination telephone number (Col. 11, lines 40-46);

- comparing a first calling area indicated by the calling telephone number with a second calling area indicated by the destination telephone number (Col. 9, lines 30-34 and Col. 3, lines 24-57) ;

- determining whether the customer is authorized to be connected to the destination telephone number based on at least a result of the comparison (Col. 11, lines 25-30);

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allocating an outbound channel to establish a connection to the destination telephone number when it is determined that the customer is authorized to be connected to the destination telephone number (Col. 9, lines 34-36);

dialing the destination telephone number over the outbound channel (Col. 9, lines 34-36);
and

connecting the inbound channel to the outbound channel (Col. 9, lines 35-38).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fodale (US 4,756,020) teaches a system for selectively allowing or disallowing calls to particular destinations.

Emery et al. (US 5,727,057) teach a system for setting up calls using out-of-band signaling.

Riskin (US 4,817,129) teach accessing directory services using telephones.

4. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 306-0377 (for customer service assistance)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Allan Hoosain** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4012. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Fan Tsang**, can be reached on (703) 305-4895.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Allan Hoosain
Primary Examiner
3/20/03